

and

communicate the signaling and control information to an upstream receiver-end network terminator.

In The Abstract:

Delete the present Abstract and in its place insert the following:

--Abstract Of The Disclosure

A method for transmitting signaling and control information for wavelength-division multiplex networks for optical, fiber-bound information transfer in digitized form, the signaling and control information being transmitted via the same optical channel, particularly with the same wavelength, as the useful information, but being encoded and decoded independently thereof, with the result that the control and signaling information can also be accessed independently of the useful information. The use of a time-division multiplex method allowing the different encoding of useful information and control information makes it possible considerably to reduce the technical complexity of passive optical network elements with regard to the routing of the signaling and control information. This method permits the simple, low-cost and transparent transmission of signaling and control information in the optical WDM network.--.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels original claims 1-13, without prejudice, in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/02737, and adds new claims 14-27. The new claims do not add new matter to the application but do conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules.

The amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules. The amendments to the specification and abstract do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT application includes a Search Report dated September 22, 1998, and an International Preliminary Examination Report dated June 15, 1999,

copies of which are submitted herewith.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful.
Consideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

By: *Richard L. Mayer* (Reg. No. 41,172)

Dated: *1/7/00*

By: *Richard L. Mayer*
Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490

One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200